

DES MOINES REGISTER (IA)
25 February 1986

STAT

Ex-officer suspects CIA role in Philippines upheaval

By WILLIAM PETROSKI

Register Staff Writer

A former CIA officer said in Des Moines Monday night that he believes the intelligence agency has been involved in the attempted overthrow of Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos.



RALPH
McGEEHEE

"It is my understanding and my appreciation that obviously the agency has had a role," said Ralph McGehee, now a CIA critic, who addressed about 30 people at Hawthorn Hill, 921

Pleasant St.

"I would prefer to see Marcos stay there," he added. He called opposition leader Corazon Aquino "nothing more than a new facade on a rotten structure" and characterized her as one of that country's richest landowners.

Ultimately, he predicts, there will be a revolution by the poor in the Philippines to overthrow the wealthy elite who control that nation.

McGehee, who spoke on covert CIA activity throughout the world, spent 25 years working for the agency in Japan, the Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam before retiring in 1977. He is the author of a book titled "Deadly Deceits," and he is spending two weeks speaking to groups throughout Iowa.

McGehee said that while he lacks intimate knowledge of current CIA activities in the Philippines, there is no question about a CIA role in the upheaval. He noted that CIA Director William Casey had visited Marcos in the Philippines, and he believes the CIA had some type of involvement in the recent elections there.

McGehee described the CIA as frequently refusing to accept bona fide intelligence data when it contradicts U.S. policies. Too often, he added, the agency props up foreign dictators who thwart the will of their people to the benefit of multinational corporations.

Both Iowa industry workers and farmers are being hurt by U.S. foreign policy because it is supporting cheap labor and cheap food production abroad, he said.